EPISCOPAL RESIDENCE, CHATHAM. N. B.,
MARCH 30TH, 1883.

REV. AND DEAR SIR :—

In fulfilment of the canonical duty incumbent on all Bishops of the R. C. Church, to visit periodically the Apostolic See of Peter the Chief Pastor of the Universal Flock of Christ—imitating St Paul who "WENT TO SEE PETER" (Gal. 1. 18) to confer with him on the duties of his Apostleship we are about to leave in a few days, accompanied by one of our priests, the Rev. John Carter, in order to make that visit of filial and fraternal duty to the successor of St. Peter, our Holy Father, Pope Leo XIII,—whom may God ever bless and preserve!

We address this CIRCULAR NOTE to our Reverend Clergy to inform them, and through them their respective flocks, of this our official visit, which, as the Bishop of their Diocese, we are about to make to the SOVEREIGN PONTIFF, to give him an account of our Stewardship. to assure him of the devoted love and attachment of all our Flock to him and his Apostolic Chair, and to beg his paternal benediction for ourselves and all, both Pastors and People, committed to our pastoral care.—We commend ourselves and our journey to their good prayers; and, in turn, we shall not fail to pray for them, while they will accompany us in spirit on that sacred pilgrimage to the Tombs of the Holy Apostles Peter and Paul, at Rome, and to the other venerable shrines and Holy Places which it may be our happiness to visit,

To provide for the regular government of our Diocese, during our absence, we have appointed our worthy Vicar General, Father Barry, of Caraquet as Administrator, and Father Bannon of Chatham, as Chancellor of the Diocese, which office in connection with that of Treasurer of the Chatham Building Fund after our fire, he has already been virtually filling for the past few years. Therefore in all matters regarding jurisdiction, canonical dispensations, permissions of absence and the like, in regard to either Clerics or members of Religious Communities, recourse is to be had to the Very Reverend Thomas F. Barry, Administrator of the Diocese, residing at Caraquet; but the transmission of all moneys of the Diocese is to be made as heretofore to the Rev. Thomas J. Bannon, Episcopal Residence, Chatham, N. B.

Begging our Good God, His Immaculate Mother and all the Angels and Saints to have you all in their holy keeping!

I REMAIN, REV. AND DEAR SIR,
YOUR HUMBLE AND DEVOTED SERVANT IN J. C.,
✝ JAMES ROGERS,
BISHOP OF CHATHAM.